97TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
No. 97-967

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE FOR THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 1982.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. PEPPER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 621]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Resolution 621, report the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution do pass.

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In March 1989 the United States will reach the two hundredth anniversary of its establishment under the United States Constitution. The historical development of the House has been bound to the development of our national policies which have guided this institution and our Nation. The Committee finds that it is desirable and appropriate that the United States House of Representatives as the "people's body" of this representative government provide for the commemoration of this important anniversary.

House Resolution 621 proposes an amendment to Rule I of the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish an Office for the bicentennial of the House of Representatives which would coordinate the planning of the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the House of Representatives in 1989. The management, supervision and administration of the Office would be under the direction of the Speaker and would be staffed by a professional historian. On September 24, 1982, the House by vote of 132 to 180 rejected House Resolution 581, a resolution to establish a permanent Office of the House Historian. Opponents of House Resolution 581 argued that there was no need for a permanent Office of the Historian to plan the bicentennial but agreed that the House needs to take action to coordinate planning of the bicentennial of the Congress. House Resolution 621 would establish a temporary Office

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for the Bicentennial which would cease to exist not later than September 30, 1989, unless otherwise provided by law or resolution. It is anticipated that the Office for the Bicentennial would work in conjunction with the Senate Bicentennial Study Group to coordinate activities in both Houses for this Congressional bicentennial.

H. Res. 621 provides that the Office would be staffed by a professional historian appointed by the Speaker without regard to political affiliation, solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the position and any person so appointed would serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. All expenses for the Office would be paid from the contingent fund of the House on vouchers solely approved and signed by the Speaker, until otherwise provided by law or resolution. By creating an Office for the Bicentennial well in advance of the anniversary, the House can take advantage of careful advance planning and draw on existing resources.

Bicentennial of the U.S. Congress

In the year 1989 the Congress will commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of its establishment under the United States Constitution. It is anticipated that the Office for the Bicentennial of the House of Representatives would work in conjunction with the Senate Bicentennial Commission and the Senate Historian to coordinate planning for the Bicentennial of the Congress. On August 1, 1980, the Senate expressed its desire to observe the Senate bicentennial in an appropriate manner and passed S. Res. 381 establishing a Study Group on the Commemoration of the United States Bicentennary to prepare an overall plan for commemorating the Senate Bicentennial through an appropriate program of publications, exhibits, symposia and related activities. The final report on the recommendations of the Commission was approved on December 2, 1982, and will be submitted to the President of the Senate by December 31, 1982. The Senate Historian has worked with the Senate Bicentennial Study Group and that Office would most likely have the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the recommendations of the Study Group. Several of the proposed publications under consideration by the Study Group are already in preparation by the Senate Historian's Office or could be accomplished through existing resources of that Office. These include:

Guide to United States Senators' Manuscripts Collections.

United States Senators, 1789–198–: An Annotated Bibliography.

Biographical Directory of the United States Senate, 1789–198–.

Guide to Senate Official and Committee Records at the National Archives.

Senator Robert C. Byrd's History of the Senate.

Guide to the Senate's Artistic and Historic Furnishings.

Senate Historical Almanac (100 pages of facts and figures).

The Senate in Pictures: Photographs, Cartoons, Engravings With a Catalog of the Senate's Photographic Collections.

Outstanding Senators (biographical profiles of a number of former senators, selected and prepared by independent scholars; published in a 250-page book).

Outstanding Issues (scholarly articles focusing on major constitutional and national issues in which the Senate played a dominant role).

The Senate From The Inside (first-person accounts by former members and staff, since the eighteenth century, of the Senate's life and customs; edited and assembled in a single volume).

Minutes of the Democratic and Republican Party Caucuses, 1903–1960.

The Study Group recommendations would include a "coordinated program of publications, ceremonial events, conferences, and a film to inform the nation of the role of the Senate in the workings of the Federal Government from its historical beginnings through two hundred years of growth, challenge, and change." Members of the Offices of the Senate Historian and Senate Curator, under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Senate served as staff to the Study Group, thus minimizing the operating expenses. The staff of the Study Group consulted with representatives of the National Archives, Library of Congress, with professional historians, museum curators, and filmmakers, and with representatives of other agencies of the Federal Government and private organizations involved in the planning of the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the United States Constitution and the formation of the Federal Government. On October 1, 1982, the Senate passed S. 2671, a bill to establish a sixteen member presidential commission to coordinate commemorative activities for the bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Senate Historical Office

The Senate Historical Office was established in September 1975 within the framework of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate. Initially the position of the Senate Historian and the Historical Office were financed through funds appropriated to the Secretary of the Senate for his "administrative" purposes in the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act for fiscal year 1976 (P.L. 94–59) and later as a separate line item. Since 1975, the Office has served as an information clearinghouse for persons interested in the history and traditions of the Senate and has been involved in activities directed at preserving the history of the Senate. According to its annual report for fiscal year 1981 the Senate Historical Office:

> Collects and provides information on important events, dates, statistics, precedents, and historical comparisons of current and past activities of the Senate, for use by members' offices, the press, scholars, and the general public.

The Senate Historical Office currently has a staff of five including, Richard A. Baker, the Senate Historian, an associate historian, a photohistorian, an assistant historian and a secretary. The Office assists researchers, maintains a register of locations of former Senators' papers, edits for publication committees' older executive ses-

sion transcripts and conducts oral history interviews with senior Senate staff. The Senate photohistorian provides coverage of current Senate activities of potential historical significance and collects, for Senate and public use, older photographs illustrative of the Senate and its sixteen hundred former members. The accomplishments and activities of the Senate Historical Office include: A catalog of Senators' Research Collections, oral history of the Senate, statements on the Senate's history, publication on Presidential Inaugurations, catalog of unprinted committee hearings, comprehensive photo collection, bibliography of the U.S. Senate since 1789, seminars and conferences to publicize and encourage scholarship related to the Senate, files on Senate-related research projects underway or recently completed, and other projects designed to disseminate information to the Senate and the general public on the history and traditions of the U.S. Senate.

Position title, appt. term.:	*Annual base salary*
Historian	$46,655
Associate historian	34,414
Photohistorian	33,490
Assistant historian	18,940
Secretary	18,016
Research assistant	15,000
Total	151,515

	Fiscal year—		
	1982	1981	1980
1. Salaries	$151,515	$146,000	$138,500
2. Photo processing	4,500	4,500	4,000
3. Books	2,000	2,000	2,000
4. Stationery	500	500	400

Provisions

The Committee on Rules considered House Resolution 621 on December 14, 1982, and reported the resolution by voice vote without amendment, a quorum being present. House Resolution 621 amends Rule I of the Rules of the House of Representatives by adding a new clause 10 to establish in the House of Representatives an Office for the Bicentennial of the House of Representatives.

Office for the Bicentennial

The resolution provides that the management, supervision, and administration of the Office shall be under the direction of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall be staffed by a professional historian. The Historian would be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the position. Any person so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Committee anticipates that the Historian would be chosen on a competitive basis and would be an individual who

has demonstrated a knowledge of American History, a knowledge of the legislative process, some organizational skills and/or achievement of professional recognition in his or her profession. Although the size and staff of the Office would be at discretion of the Speaker, it is anticipated that initially the historian and a research assistant/secretary would be employed. The Committee expects that the Office of the Bicentennial would to the extent possible utilize the services and existing resources of staff and congressional support groups. Support staff could be obtained through utilization of the congressional fellowship or intern programs or through utilization of services of volunteers.

FUNDS

House Resolution 621 provides that all expenses of the Office may be paid from the contingent fund of the House on vouchers solely approved and signed by the Speaker, until otherwise provided by law or resolution. Since the expenses of the Office will be paid out of the contingent fund of the House, no additional appropriations or funding resolutions would be necessary. The Committee expects that the Office would minimize expenses and maximize resources by utilizing staff and resources of existing offices and organizations in a manner similar to the use of staff by the Senate Bicentennial Study Group. The use of the resources available through the Library of Congress, the National Archives and other units would help the Office capitalize on the economics of careful planning.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

On December 14, 1982, the Committee on Rules, which has original jurisdiction over amendments to the Rules of the House of Representatives, held a hearing on House Resolution 621. Testimony in support of the resolution was received from Representative Newt Gingrich. Several Members of the Committee on Rules also made statements in support of the Resolution. The Committee on Rules ordered House Resolution 621 favorably reported to the House, by voice vote, a quorum being present, December 14, 1982.

STATEMENT UNDER CLAUSE 2(l)(3) OF RULE XI OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A. OVERSIGHT STATEMENT

The committee made no special oversight findings on this resolution.

B. BUDGET STATEMENT

No budget statement is submitted.

C. ESTIMATE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

No estimate or comparison was received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office as referred to in subdivision (C) of clause 2(l)(3) of the House rule XI.

D. OVERSIGHT FINDINGS OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

No findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Operations were received as referred to in subdivision (a) of clause 2(l)(3) of House rule XI.

CHANGES IN THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MADE BY THE RESOLUTION

In compliance with clause 4(d) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in the Rules of the House of Representatives made by the resolution are shown as follows (existing matter proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing matter in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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RULE I

DUTIES OF THE SPEAKER

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"10. (a) There is hereby established in the House of Representatives an office to be known as the Office for the Bicentennial of the House of Representatives. This office will coordinate the planning of the commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the House of Representatives.

"(b) The management, supervision, and administration of the Office shall be under the direction of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall be staffed by a professional historian. The Historian shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the position. Any person so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker.

"(c) All expenses of such office may be paid from the contingent fund of the House on vouchers solely approved and signed by the Speaker, until otherwise provided by law or resolution.

"(d) The Office shall cease to exist not later than September 30, 1989, unless otherwise provided by law or resolution.".

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